

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated April 1, 2003. Claims 1-8 were pending in the application. In the Office Action, claims 1-8 were rejected. In this amendment, claims 1-8 have been amended. Claims 1-8 thus remain for consideration

Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

Drawings

The objections to the drawings are noted and are corrected in accordance with the Request For Approval of Drawing Changes submitted herewith.

Applicants have provided replacement drawing sheets, including Figs. 11 and 12, for the corresponding previously submitted drawing sheets. The replacement sheets amend Figs. 11 and 12 by inserting the designation "Prior Art."

Title

A new title has been provided.

The new title is believed to be clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

§102 and 103 Rejections

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hori (U.S. Patent No. 6,259,478).

Claims 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Takemura (U.S. Patent No. 4,839,734).

Claims 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hori in view of Heida (U.S. Patent No. 6,377,301).

Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takemura in view of Heida.

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are patentable over Hori, Takemura and Heida.

Applicant's invention as recited in the claims is directed toward an apparatus and method in which an image sensor outputs an image-sensing signal. Each of the claims recites that "said image sensor outputs said image-sensing signal in units of fields regardless of whether said sensor is operating in [an] interlace scan mode or [a] progressive scan mode."

Since neither Hori, Takemura nor Heida discloses an image sensor that outputs an image-sensing signal in units of fields regardless of whether said sensor is operating in an interlace scan mode or a progressive scan mode, Applicant believes that claims 1-8 are patentable over Hori, Takemura and Heida – taken either alone or in combination – on at least this basis.

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably

distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to these claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

Statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited references represent the present opinions of the Applicant's undersigned attorney and, in the event that the Examiner disagrees with any such opinions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the respective reference providing the basis for a contrary view.


If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,

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